

GULF DEFENDER



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Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. Home of Air Dominance Training

Jan. 20, 2006

In brief

Commander's Call

Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Ellison, AETC command chief, is holding an Enlisted Call at 9 a.m. Thursday in Hangar 2. All enlisted members are required to attend, but minimal manning of each office is authorized. Shuttle runs begin at 8 a.m. at the Base Support building, the Tyndall Clinic and the 325th Air Control Squadron.

General William R. Looney III, AETC commander, is holding a Commander's Call at 10:15 a.m. Thursday in Hangar 2. All military are required to attend, but minimal manning of each office is authorized. Civilian attendance is highly encouraged. Shuttle runs begin at 9 a.m. at the Base Support building, the Tyndall Clinic and the 325th ACS.

Annual Awards Banquet

The 2005 Team Tyndall Annual Awards Banquet is Feb 17. Social hour begins at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. Reservations can be made through a unit first sergeant. The cost is \$20 for club members, \$23 for non-members.

What's inside



Public Health warriors protect Tyndall Airmen ... PAGE 14

increase, the new budget provides about 20 new or increased bonuses or special pays or benefits. This reflects a trend DOD officials emphasize is becoming increasingly rare in the private sector. The new law provides a variety of ben-

efits designed to better compensate servicemembers, improve their quality of life, bring reserve-component benefits more on par with those for the active force and promote recruiting and retention, said Chuck Witschonke, DOD's deputy director for compensation.

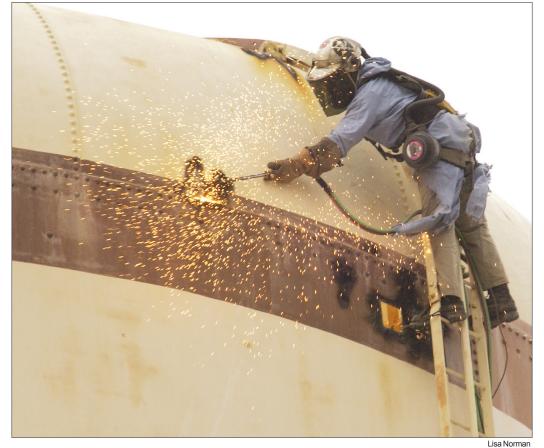
"Not only does it contain the routine annual pay raise, which is one-half percent higher than the raise measured in the private sector, but it also includes a number of increases in ceilings on some very important pays," he said.

Among the law's most significant features

- An increase in the maximum reenlistment bonus offered, from \$60,000 to 90,000;
- —A higher maximum enlistment bonus, up from \$20,000 to \$40,000;
- A new ceiling on hardship-duty pay, from \$300 to \$750 a month;
- A doubling of the maximum assignment incentive pay for hard-to-fill billets or

Fire tower

A contractor from Iseler Demolition, Inc., uses a cutting torch to cut away part of the water tower behind the Airman Leadership School. The water tower was taken down in several pieces.



Budget increases military pay, benefits

DONNA MILES

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — President George W. Bush ushered in an across-theboard 3.1 percent military pay raise, effec-

It includes a variety of new or enhanced benefits for servicemembers and their families when he signed the 2006 National Defense Authorization Bill into law Jan. 6.

In addition to a pay raise that's a half percent higher than the average private-sector

assignments, from \$1,500 to \$3,000 a month, now payable either in a lump sum or installments;

- A new allowance to cover the first \$150,000 in Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance premiums for troops serving in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom;
- A new bonus of up to \$2,500 for servicemembers who agree to transfer from one service to another and serve for at least three years;
- —An incentive pay of up to \$1,000 for servicemembers who refer someone who enlists in the Army and successfully completes basic training;
- An average 5.9 percent increase in housing allowances, with authority to increase set levels temporarily by as much as 20 percent in areas affected by natural

• SEE PAY PAGE 17

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Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

Under stand

Staff Sgt. Michael Kimionakis, 325th Maintenance Squadron jet engine propulsion craftsman, conducts a post cell inspection of an F-15 Eagle engine recently at the jet engine intermediate maintenance shop. The shop inspects engines twice – first to find any write-ups, then, after the engine has been worked on, to make sure all the write-ups were corrected.

Identify this...



Can you identify this object? If so, send an e-mail to editor@tyndall.af.mil with "Identify This" in the subject line. Three correct entries will be chosen at random and drawn from a hat to select the final winner. The prize can be claimed at the Public Affairs office.

No one correctly guessed the Identify This for Jan. 13. Since it was so difficult, we may run it again in a future *Gulf Defender*. Better luck next time!

ON THE **STREET**

325th Services Squadron focus: What do you do to prepare for a deployment?



"I 'lean forward' and learn about the duties I'll be responsible for while deployed."



"I prepare by spending more time with my family."

CAPT. PAUL GOOD
Combat support flight commander



"I make sure to accomplish my checklists and tell my family I love them before I leave."

SENIOR AIRMAN REBECCA SANCHEZ Lodging specialist



"To prepare for deployment, I complete my training, including convoy and Services Combat Training."

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JON SUMMERS Fitness specialist

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ERIK LEDESMA Food service specialist

Gulf Defender Editorial Staff

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The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129 or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425 or e-mailed to editor@tyndall.af.mil. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the *Gulf Defender* to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the *Panama City News Herald*.

For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

Commentary

Give children a brake: Slow down in base housing

2ND LT. WILL POWELL

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Like many first-time fathers-to-be, I find myself paying closer attention to traffic laws and regulations in anticipation of my precious new passenger. Yellow stoplights no longer mean "floor it" and speeding and weaving in and out of lanes just to get to my destination a few seconds quicker isn't worth it.

Having a baby really does change everything.

But when do we forget that protecting our children is more important than getting to our destination quickly?

In the morning and evening commute to and from work, I notice a lot of drivers exceeding the 15 mph posted speed limit in base housing. This timing unfortunately coincides with when the largest numbers of children are outside.

However, it isn't a matter of when and if children are present. Drivers should abide by the speed limit no matter what time of day it is or who is in the area.

But it's easy to exceed the low speed limit, I know. Even a slight tap of the gas pedal can accelerate a car over 15 mph. This is why everyone who travels through base housing must make a conscious effort and be aware of their speed and their surroundings. Even one speeder could threaten the life of a child.

So when do you consider yourself speeding? The average person may believe traveling 5 mph over the speed limit is not excessive, or even speeding, but consider this: The average time it takes for a driver to remove his foot from the accelerator and depress the brake pedal is 1.5 seconds. This means that a car moving at 15 mph, or 22 feet per second, will travel 33 feet before the brakes are even applied, according to research conducted at the University of West Virginia.

Naturally, the faster a car is moving, the farther the car will travel before applying the brakes. If a child happens to jump out in front of a moving vehicle, the driver will need every spare second and inch to stop a

safe distance from the child.

Speeding through base housing not only threatens the safety of our children, but it also threatens to make your life very difficult if you're caught. Getting pulled over for speeding in military family housing will automatically land you a 30-day suspension of driving privileges on base. And that's just for the first offense. Imagine the strain the loss of driving privileges could cause you and your family.

Despite all the consequences, speeding still occurs too often.

According to the 325th Security Forces Squadron, 282 speeding tickets were issued in 2005 on Tyndall, and approximately 23 were cited in base housing.

The easiest and safest way to avoid seeing those blinding blue and white lights in your rearview mirror is to slow down and follow the speed limit, especially in the housing areas.

Follow the speed limit. Save yourself some embarrassment. Save a life.

Sergeant sees need to enhance AF warrior mentality

FORCE DEPLOYMENT

SENIOR MASTER SGT. ALFREDO LOPEZ

325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron first sergeant

When I ask our young leaders if they consider themselves combatants, I rarely get a yes. So I can't help but wonder how many of the 20 Airmen who have died so far in Iraq considered themselves combatants in the seconds before their death.

We, as senior leaders, are missing something in our approach with our troops when we don't take the time to talk honestly with them about the inherent dangers of the profession of arms. There is an obvious need for us to change our focus and adequately prepare our troops for what awaits them in the real world.

While serving recently with the Wolfpack at Kunsan AB, Korea, I was responsible for the morale and welfare of more than 465 Airmen. It was an eye-

opening experience for this old warrior.

The complacency and lack of a sense of urgency I witnessed during bunker dive exercises was alarming. Force protection

is everyone's business, not just the function of security forces or the Army. It's everyone's responsibility to uphold standards and strive to set the pace for others to follow.

We also need to get tougher, leaner and meaner. During the bunker dive exercises, we had troops pulling muscles, passing out after running less than 200 feet and running to the bunkers with no protective equipment. Our physical fitness program alone is simply not enough to prepare our troops for the harsh climates and tough

challenges that await us at austere loca-

We simply have to get back to our warrior roots and behave like members of the

> military. We owe it to our troops to prepare them for the harsh realities of serving in uniform in today's violent world.

"We're taking the fight to the terrorists'

own backyard instead of us fighting them in our backyard," I heard Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander, say at a recent Warrior Farewell for our wing's deploying troops. Every one of us may be called upon to deploy on a moment's notice, and we owe it to ourselves, our families and our nation to be ready.

Make no mistake about it; no matter where you work or what you do at Tyndall, you are a valuable member of America's combat forces. I challenge you to step up and take the lead in addressing these issues. Confront problems with enthusiasm and fresh ideas.

Remember when the world gets in trouble, it calls on America, and America calls on you. Hundreds of millions of free people around the world are sleeping peacefully in their beds tonight because they know we stand ready to fight on their behalf. They will never know our names and we will rarely hear a "thank you," but they are still counting on us to be there.

Are you ready? Have you done everything you can to get your troops ready? Are you and your troops really prepared to answer the call?

NOTITION NATURALITY



The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers.

If you're not satisfied with the response

or you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General's Office, 283-4646.

Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

Below are more phone numbers that help you in resolving any issues with a base agency.

 Commissary
 283-4825

 Pass and I.D.
 283-4191

 Medical and Dental
 283-7515

MEO	283-2739
MPF	283-2276
SFS Desk Sgt.	283-2254
Services	283-2501
Legal	283-4681
Housing	283-2036
CDC	283-4747
Wing Safety	283-4231
Area Defense Counsel	283-2911
Finance	283-4117
Civil Engineer	283-4949
Civilian Personnel	283-3203
Base Information	283-1113

Thank you for helping me improve Tyndall and I look forward to hearing from you.

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Force shaping and one lieutenant's morale

1st Lt. Kristen D. Duncan

96th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFMCNS) – Balance the officer and enlisted corps: that is the current need of the Air Force. As an officer and a second generation Airman, I've been told from day one, the "needs of the Air Force" come first

What happens when those needs mean the loss of my job – and not just my job, but a career of integrity, service and excellence? I vowed to protect the Constitution, to continue what my father and the greatest generation did in World War II. I am truly a patriot. I am an Airman.

With force shaping, Air Force leadership is undertaking the very difficult task of reducing its forces. In a recent briefing at Eglin, Brig. Gen. Kathleen Close, director, Installations and Mission Support, Air Force Materiel Command, said the leadership knows they could be losing a future commander, or a future general, but the Air Force can no longer support the imbalance of officers to enlisted troops. To support the mission, the ser-

vice has to reduce its 2002 and 2003 lieutenants through volunteer or forced separations.

That equals more than 4,000 young, promising lieutenants. One thing is certain; the caliber of lieutenants is unparalleled. The question is: what does this do to our morale? Working on various projects, I have to wonder, will any of this mean any-

"We should all work harder, not to impress for fear of losing our jobs, but because we are all officers who strive for excellence."

1ST LT. KRISTEN D. DUNCAN96th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

thing if I'm force-shaped? Will I still be able to lead my troops? Is my morale going to take a nose dive? What if I work harder than I've ever worked to impress the heck out of every commander I've ever met? How do I keep focused on my job and my mission?

The answer is really quite simple. We should all work harder, not to impress for fear of losing our jobs, but because we are all officers who strive for excellence. We should continue to accomplish our jobs with the same unfailing performance and the same can-do attitude we've always had.

We should continue to work hard for our shops, our troops, our families and ourselves.

In one of the hardest hit career fields, I've examined all my options and have come up with a few ideas: navigator training, Palace Chase and even switching services. Thankfully, the Air Force is giving us options. I've come to realize, though, that serving my country means serving its needs. The needs of the Air Force must always come first.

I hope to make a career of the Blue; but even if my active-duty career is cut short, it is for the mission of the Air Force and the United States military that I will serve and honorably discharge.

It could be my last act on active-duty service, but I am, and will always be, an Airman.



Do you have questions?

We have the answers!

Call the Straight Talk Center at (877) 529-5540, 24-hours a day,

Air Force makes changes to BAH policy

STAFF SGT. C. TODD LOPEZ

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The Air Force and the other military services have eliminated geographic rate protection for the basic allowance for housing.

Beginning this month, BAH rates will fluctuate yearly based on housing cost estimates made from data collected regionally by military housing offices. The budget-conscious move by the Department of Defense is designed to save money at a time when resources are tight.

Under the new system, people who remain in an area will never see a lowering of their individual BAH rate. That policy, called individual rate protection, is designed to ensure Airmen who have already established homes aren't faced with a cut in their BAH rate.

Individual rate protection is designed to protect Airmen when the median housing rates in an area drop but landlords don't lower rents to match them.

But the policy will create situations where two military members of the same rank and with the same dependent status may receive different BAH rates. Individual rate protection allows in-place members to keep their BAH rate for a region while BAH rates in the area may fall. So a newcomer can get the same quality of housing at a lower cost.

"When you signed your lease, you were locked into a rate in a housing market that had a higher cost, on average," said Capt. Charles Parada, chief of the Air Force's basic allowance for housing program. "But a newcomer could face a lower-cost market."

Captain Parada said whatever BAH rate a member receives at a new duty station will be fair.

"The new BAH program will always allow you to afford adequate housing for your grade and dependency status in the current market," he said.

Captain Parada also said that all members in a region are entitled to increases in the BAH rate as they occur.

Besides changes to rate protection, there are two additional changes to BAH coming for the Air Force and other services in 2006. The first is the elimination of the

BAH differential for members living off base. The second is a change to in-transit BAH rates for new Airmen.

"What members will be paid now is a BAH rate with dependents, versus the BAH differential," Captain Parada said. "In most cases, the new rate will be an increase for members, though in some areas it may be lower."

The BAH differential is a flat rate, based on grade, paid to members who are paying court-ordered child support. In 2006, the differential will no longer exist for members residing off base. Instead, they will receive the BAH with-dependents rate, even if they have no dependents in their home.

The BAH differential rate will also be eliminated outside the United States. But there, members receive an overseas housing allowance, or OHA, instead of the Stateside BAH.

Members with questions on BAH payments should visit: https://secureapp2.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem. An e-mail account has been set up to take questions: BAH.hotline@pentagon.af.mil.

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Legal office helps Airmen prepare for deployment

CAPT. DENISE BURNHAM
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey (AFPN) — Combat readiness is key in the post-9/11 military environment. Since the terrorist attacks more than four years ago, thousands of Airmen have deployed to locations all over the world. Some have even deployed two or three times.

A key component to ensure combat readiness is to make sure one's legal affairs are in order.

This starts with a visit to the base legal office.

"It is imperative that military members visit with a legal assistance attorney before deployment," said Lt. Col. Rob Ramey, 39th Air Base Wing staff judge advocate. "In addition to personal and family readiness checklists provided by other offices, we will assist deploying members with various legal readiness preparations."

The legal office advises customers about readiness issues and preventive measures to take care of military and their family members.

"We are the catch all," said Master Sgt. Tywanna Frazier, 39th ABW legal office NCOIC of general law. She said JA stands for "Just ask."

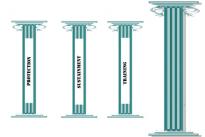
The legal office assists Airmen with simple, routine matters such as claims and notaries, but they

are also equipped to deal with the more complicated issues such as power of attorneys, wills and/or non-combatant evacuation, or "NEO," paperwork.

When the next deployment rotation begins, hundreds of family members will be left behind in base housing.

"It's important for military members to have all their affairs in order before they deploy," Sergeant Frazier said. "Because it's

FORCE DEPLOYMENT



the spouse and kids left behind who will be affected."

The staff is ready to assist deployers with important issues such as wills, powers of attorney, providing for incapacity, planning for personal finances, life insurance, dependent care arrangements and personal documents.

There are many good reasons for all adults, active duty or not, to have wills, according to the legal office. A will can assist in ensuring wishes for property division are carried out and much more.

"This may seem like a particularly difficult thing to do, but you will want to take control, instead of letting the courts decide for you," Colonel Ramey said.

Powers of attorney are an effective way of permitting others to act on one's behalf. Whether it is taking a child to the hospital for a medical appointment or allowing a trusted agent access to one's bank account, a power of

attorney can alleviate deployment headaches, allowing the warfighter to focus on the task at-hand.

"In most cases, powers of attorney are simple documents that we will create for you while you wait," Colonel Ramey said.

Dependent care plans help single parents or dual-military households develop a contingency plan for children in the event they both deploy or have military duties that affect their ability to care for their children either short-term or long-term.



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Physical Therapy clinic treats active duty only

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 325th Medical Group Physical Therapy Clinic is now treating active-duty military members only, according to the 325th Medical Operations Squadron Physical Therapy NCO in charge.

The change will slightly lighten the patient load for the clinic, allowing them to better serve their active duty customers, said Tech. Sgt. Charlene Majo.

"The decision was made a couple of years ago to decrease our manning numbers," said Capt. Brian Katen, 325th MDOS Physical Therapy element leader. "This move to seeing only active duty will help maintain our quality of care."

Military retirees, their family members and active duty dependents enrolled in Tricare Prime can still receive physical therapy, but must be treated by an offbase physical therapist, said Sergeant

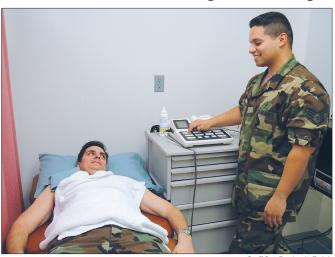
An off-base physical therapy referral can be obtained from an off-base specialist or from the primary care manager. If the referral is from an off-base specialist, the referral must be routed through the patient's PCM. Once the PCM enters the referral, the patient should receive a referral letter with the physical therapist's contact information from Humana Military Health Services within five business days. Those patients who do not want to wait for the letter can contact HMHS after three business days for the referral information at (800) 444-5445.

HMHS authorizes network physical therapy according to the patient's condition. Patients with an off-base network physical therapist preference can contact their PCM to see if other options are available. To ensure the process is not delayed, patients are recommended to contact the Referral Management Center at 283-7333 for any address or phone number changes, or to confirm their address and phone numbers are correct.

"Active duty family members enrolled in Tricare Prime who are referred by their PCM to the local community for physical therapy do not have any out of pocket expense," said Jim Blanchard, 325th Medical Group beneficiary counselor for the Tricare Operations office. "But military retirees and their family members in Tricare Prime will incur a \$12 co-payment for each visit to the physical therapist."

Active family members and military retirees and their family members enrolled in Tricare Standard will incur some outpatient deductible and cost share expenses. For additional infor-

mation regarding costs for off-base physical therapy visits, Tricare Prime enrollees can visit the Tricare Service Center located on the first floor of the medical clinic, or they can call HMHS at (800) 444-5445. Tricare Standard enrollees and active duty members with medical billing questions can visit the Tricare Operations office located on the third floor of the medical clinic or call 283-7331.



First Lt. Randy Lindemyer receives treatment from Staff Sgt. Pompilio Alfaro Jan. 10 at the Physical Therapy clinic.

Active duty members must still go through their PCM to initiate physical therapy, even if physical therapy is requested by an off-base provider. After the PCM enters the referral, active duty members can contact the Physical Therapy clinic at 283-7019 or 7020 to schedule their initial appointment. Physical Therapy is located on the second floor of the medical clinic, Building 1465.

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Associate Spotlight

Staff Sgt. Valerie Swats



isa Norma

Sergeant Swats receives the Associate Spotlight award from Col. Mike Winslow, 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Sergeant Swats, 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group. Her commander requested her by name to be NCO in charge of the group's information managers because of her talent. She was competitively selected to attend Air Combat Command's Sword Bear Course and assisted the group in resurrecting additional duties.

Duty title: NCO in charge Time on station: Seven years Hometown: Poquoson, Va. Hobbies: Working out, softball, going to the beach, education Favorite book: PFE

Favorite thing about your unit: Being a part of Air Combat Command

Pet Peeves: When people take for granted and don't appreciate what they have been given in life Goals: Retire from the USAF as a chief and start my second career working with animals Proudest moment in the

military: When civilian strangers thank you for your dedication and service

The Associate Spotlight is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize a Warrior from one of Tyndall's tenant units. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate from the wing commander and other items presented by their unit.

CONSTRUCTION

Phase II of construction at the Sabre Gate is underway. This portion of work will last approximately four months. This phase of construction will allow for only outbound traffic flow through the Sabre Gate. Inbound access for military family housing residents and Youth Center, Golf Course and Marina Club employees will be through School Road Gate.

All inbound traffic through School Road Gate will be required to turn right onto DeJarnette Road, and all outbound traffic on Sabre Drive will not be permitted to turn right on DeJarnette Road. All other inbound traffic should use the main gate at Illinois Avenue.



Staff Sgt. Temesha Madison



Lisa Norman

9......

Sergeant Madison receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Sergeant Madison, 325th Mission Support Group. She earned the 2005 Communications and Information Award in the Outstanding 3A NCO category. She also volunteered more than 160 hours for hurricane relief efforts.

Duty title: 325th MSG command section

NCO in charge

Time on station: Four years Time in service: Eight years Hometown: Windsor, N.C.

Hobbies: Reading, working out, hanging out

with friends

Favorite movie: "Friday"

Favorite book: "The Spirit of Man" by Iyanla

Vazant

Favorite thing about Tyndall: The beach **Goals:** To obtain my doctorate in psychology **Proudest moment in the military:**

Receiving notification of my selection for

ROTC

The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall's Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.

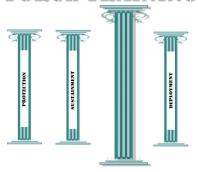
The Gulf Defender is published for people like Airman Basic Brittney Lentz, 43rd Fighter Squadron aircrew life support apprentice.





Student Focus —

FORCE TRAINING



Training Spotlight

What did you think of your first experience on an operational flightline?

It was pretty neat being around an operational jet, interacting with pilots and seeing how everything works out here. We didn't get all that at Sheppard AFB, Texas."



AIRMAN BRAD SPARKS
372nd Training Squadron/Detachment 4
Mission Ready Airmen student

Airmen learn to be successful leaders at ALS

CHRISSY CUTTITA

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Airmen go there as followers, and leave as Air Force leaders.

"An Airman's first line of Professional Military Education is Airman Leadership School," said Master Sgt. Rhonda Martin, ALS instructor. "Basically, we train senior airmen to become supervisors and leaders. We give them the necessary skills they need to be successful."

During the course's 24 academic days, students are taught human relations, leadership, profession of arms and communication. In order to graduate, they'll need to score well on their tests, perform drill and ceremonies and deliver a speech.

"One challenge for me is writing and this class will enhance my ability," said Senior Airman Robert Lewis, a student dealing with the pressure of preparing a speech on his duty title, munitions systems journeyman.

"I expected a challenge and I am definitely getting it," said Senior Airman Thomas Campbell, an Air National Guard student. "When I leave, I believe I will have the knowledge I need in dealing with troops as a supervisor. Having them understand I was once in their place will help."

"We know we did our job when we see them after class using the tools we gave them and when they come back to us for advice, clarification on an issue or just let us know how they are doing," said Sergeant Martin. Sometimes, she also sees graduates return to ALS to attend a graduation for someone they supervise.

"I can say I made a difference at the end of the day and that's fulfilling," she said.

Students are taught by guided discussions where

an instructor teaches 40 percent of the lesson time and expects student participation to fill the other 60 percent.

"I enjoy the interaction the most," said Airman Campbell. "The instructors break the ice the first day, where as elsewhere you would feel the pressure of not knowing anyone."

The 'crash' occurs about three weeks into the course, when the instructors begin to prepare the students for the final tests, he said.

Their typical day starts at 7 a.m. and the classes cover three different lessons. The day usually ends at the gym where they prepare to be fit to fight.

Occasionally, a guest speaker from the base, wing or professional organization speaks to the Airmen and answers career questions.

"The chief answered any question we asked whether it was about how

Class #

6005



Chrisey Cuttita

Staff Sgt. Richard Marshall, ALS instructor, reads case studies and discusses leadership scenarios with students.

many kids he had or how to become a chief," said Senior Airman Brandon Klein, about the speech his class received from their advisor, Chief Master Sgt. Mark Charles.

"We get such a variety of personalities here," said Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Carty, instructor. "Our students' characters make the class. They are excited and motivated. Once we establish that rapport with them, we try to make it fun while they are here."

Some of the highlights of the course include a softball challenge against chiefs. They also participate in a community-service project feeding 400 underprivileged persons in the local area.

"Because I have the knowledge I get here, I'll have the confidence I need to supervise," said Airman Lewis.

Jan. 25

FOD check

Maj. Raymond Roszkowski, a transition course student with the 1st Fighter Squadron, conducts a routine foreign object debris check on his way to the flightline. Pilots are transported to their jets in the bus, which must be inspected each time before entering the flightline to limit FOD.



6006 6007 Mar. 8 6008 Mar. 29 Apr. 16

Air Battle Manager

student progress chart

10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

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Learn, play, create at Youth Center school-age program

CHRISSY CUTTITA

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

(Editor's note: This is the first of a four-part series on the Tyndall Youth Center.)

It's a sunny, happy day in Camp Idontwanna.

Children merrily move in and out of two small, red tents surrounded by brightly-colored tissue trees and a clear blue sky. Together they prepare a meal of delicious plastic food using tin pots and pans over a waving paper flame. A small stuffed animal lies sleeping in the crowd while some children pick up plastic binoculars to observe the "nature" around them.

This is not the "great outdoors." This a small location in the back corner of a classroom called Theatre Arts where Tyndall youth experience imaginary play using props created by enthusiastic teachers.

The recently accredited school-age program here offers many opportunities for children.

"Our program is aimed at developing the child socially, emotionally and creatively," said Aneisa Iszard who runs the program. "We are a part of a national accredited organization called National After School Association. Not all places are accredited. We follow specific set rules, regulations and standards. We qualified because we have the necessary components like computers and physical activity."

"I find a game to play or color or study on the computer," said 8-year-old Demontinah Feeser about his before-school experience at the center. "Sometimes I get breakfast but only if they have eggs and bacon."



Joshua lamascola enjoys computer games. Children can also use the computer room to do their homework.

After an hour of free time, the children are boarded on buses and transported to their schools. At the end of the school day they return to the center full of energy and ready for all the activities the Youth Center staff prepare for them. Once they sign in with their "home room," they use the locator board to travel around the building.

The center hosts a variety of theme rooms like Theatre Arts, Discovery and Computers. There is even a separate room for ages 10 to 12 to congregate where they have their own living-room style of décor, complete with entertainment and study opportunities.

Open recreation in the gym is popular among students.

"I like to play line tag," said 6-year-old Sydney Clifton. "You stay on the line, and if you get tagged you're out."

"They like to go to the gym because they can run around and do what they want," said Andriemma Reese, school-age program assistant, who was helping children write thank-you cards in the computer room. "I like the children and I enjoy how they attach to you. They are very lovable"

The Discovery Room is a favorite spot for Faith Flawn, 5, who goes there to play board games. She said she meets a lot of friends at the center.

Snacks are available until 3 p.m. and the center stays open for the school program until 5:30 p.m. Starting at 4 p.m. children 9 or above can sign out of the school program and move to the gym for open recreation.

Fees for the program vary for each family. The cost is based on their income.

The school-age program also offers child care during school breaks in winter, spring and summer. Children experience the same activities as they do during the before- and after-school program.

In the summer they have theme weeks where activities are focused on a specific concept like weather, transportation, 19th-century life, health and others. They also host field trips to complement the theme. Last summer students took the base bus to a pioneer settlement, a Tallahassee science museum, a Destin go-cart attraction and more.

"Our teachers have a real passion for working with the children," said Ms. Iszard. "They have to complete modules within 18 months of employment in youth development and professionalism."

While teachers monitor the children they also monitor and prepare lesson plans. They take their activity ideas from the children.

"Kids feel free to hug us and sometimes even accidentally call us 'mom'," said Ms. Iszard. "We are a real family atmosphere."



Addie Pesche, school-age program assistant, camps



Sydney Clifton and Haylea Patterson enjoy cheese an time at the Youth Center's after-school program.

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with children at the center. The area is redecorated often to give them other creative ideas for play.

Ms. Newan greets Isaias Lopez at the bus.





Sofia Newan, school-age program assistant, helps Kevin Bartos build a Lego car in the Discovery Room of the Youth Center.

d crackers during snack

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Briefs

RAO volunteers

The Retiree Activities Office is seeking a new RAO director and volunteers to assist with the various tasks associated with running the office. The RAO is an all-volunteer organization that provides assistance and information to Tyndall's retiree community on retireerelated issues. Those interested in volunteering should contact the office by e-mail at tyndall.RAO@tyndall.af.mil or call 283-2737.

AADD volunteers

Airmen Against Drunk Driving is looking for volunteers. The hours of operations are 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Volunteers must be E-1s through E-4s. Those interested in volunteering can call 867-0220, or Airman 1st Class e-mail Krueger Brandon brandon.krueger@tyndall.af.mil.

Women's Health Clinic

The Women's Health Clinic scheduled for Saturday is cancelled. No date is set for a reschedule.

Heart Link

The next Heart Link is 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 17 at the Enlisted Club Classics Lounge. Heart Link is an orientation program that helps Air Force spouses learn more about the Air Force mission, customs, traditions, protocols and available resources and services. For more information, call the Family Support Center at 283-4205.

Clinic enrollments

The Tyndall Clinic is open to new enrollments to family practice, internal medicine and pediatrics. Flight medicine enrollment consists of flyers, special operational personnel and their dependents. Tricare Prime patients enrolling with family practice, internal medicine or pediatric providers at Tyndall Clinic should report to the Tricare Service Center next to the main clinic pharmacy, or go online to www.humanamilitary.com. For more information, call Tricare Operations and Patient Administration at 283-7331.

AFJROTC jobs

Air Force Junior ROTC is opening 75 new units at the beginning of the

Gulf Guide



Delivering diamonds

Master Sgt. Matthew Standish, 325th Air Control Squadron first sergeant, congratulates the four winners of the Diamond Superior Award at a ceremony Jan. 10 here. The four Airmen, Airmen 1st Class Esmeralda McKenzie, left, and Maria Duarte, and Senior Airmen Austin Weeks and Donald McKenzie, won for their work with Airmen Against Drunk Driving. For more information on AADD, call 283-2969.

2006-2007 school year. There will be 150 positions open for retired or soonto-be retired officers and NCOs in high schools throughout the nation. For more information, call (866) 235-7682, ext. 35275 or 35300. The DSN number is 493-5275 or 5300. For a list of current openings, go www.afoats.af.mil/AFJROTC/ instructors.asp. Positions at new units are now posted.

Gulf Coast Community College

The GCCC Tyndall Center placement test is at 1 p.m. Feb. 1. Also, the GCCC Foundation Scholarship for the 2006-2007 Academic Year is now available and must be turned in by March 1. Applications are available at the Tyndall Center. For more information, call 283-4332.

Casino Night 2006

The 325th Maintenance Group and the 325th Services Squadron present Casino Night 2006 from 4-10 p.m. tonight at the Tyndall Officer's Club. This is a club-member-only event. The cost is \$8.50. For more information, call 283-4357.

Weinermobile to visit Commissary

The Weinermobile visits the Commissary from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. today. For more information, call 283-4825.

OSC function

The 1st Air Force is hosting a cooking demonstration and recipe swap at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Tyndall Officers' Club. This event is a joint function with Eglin and Hurlburt Field. Those attending are encouraged to bring one copy of a favorite recipe to share with everyone. Please RSVP by noon today at 871-1895 rgtraver@netzero.com.

Airman's Attic

Family Services and the Airman's Attic are open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday in Bldg. 747. Call the Family Services office at 283-4913 for more information.

Tyndall Commissary closure

The Commissary is closed Tuesday to install new grocery shelving. This ensures adequate time to complete the shelving replacement process and to get products back on the shelves.

After the resetting of products, some categories or items may not be located in the same shopping aisles they are now. Aisle markers will also be updated. In order to assist with the new locations, a revised store layout will be available at the entrance to the commissary Wednesday.

Thrift Shop hours

Normal operating hours are 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, with consignments from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Thrift Shop is located in Bldg. 743, across from the Post Office. For more information, call 286-5888.



Catholic services

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m. Monday-Friday, Chapel Two Reconciliation, before Saturday Mass or by appointment Saturday Mass, 5 p.m., Chapel Two Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m., Chapel Two Religious Education, 11 a.m., Bldg. 1476

Protestant services

Traditional worship service, 9:30 a.m., Chapel One Contemporary worship service, 11 a.m., Chapel Two Wednesday Fellowship, 5 p.m., Chapel Two

(For more information on other services in the local area, call the Chaplain's office at 283-2925.)

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Indy loses, MOS wins after divisional playoffs

Pigskin Prognosticator

From Seattle, baby!

It's been a long, strange trip, my fellow prognosticators, but now the NFL season is coming to a close.

Did any of you really expect Indianapolis to lose on Sunday? Three teams, 325th MOS, CS and CONS, actually picked Pittsburgh, and much to my surprise, they were right. But what an incredible, edge-of-the-seat game that was! That is until Colt's kicker Mike Vanderjagt decided to kick a 46-yard field goal somewhere to the right of Indiana.

And up in the Mile High City, Broncos cornerback Champ Bailey made a game-changing interception that helped Denver take down New England. I was ecstatic and apparently so was he.

"It was a great play by me," said Bailey.

Eloquently put, my friend.

So, coming up this weekend, we'll see the Panthers try to bat down the Seahawks, and the Bron-

cos are looking to buck the Steelers. There should be some interesting conference championship action, and I predict the Super Bowl will be a close, fun-to-watch match-up. Between who? Why Seattle and Pittsburgh, of course!

Back here at Tyndall, the 2nd FS fell one place after only getting two correct picks, while 325th MOS climbed to the top of the heap.

Since statistically no one, not even me, can beat the top four teams, this competition now belongs to 325th MOS, ACS, CONS and 2nd FS. The top two winners from the conference championships games will go on to compete for the coveted Super Prog I trophy.

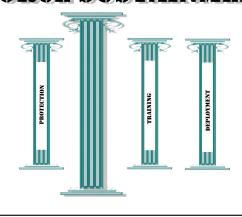
So, out of those four squadrons, who do you think is going win? Or lose big time? Let me know! Send your e-mails to editor@tyndall.af.mil, and maybe I'll print yours. If it's good enough.

Now, let's get out there and watch some football!

Prognosticator scorebox

Team	Playoffs	Total
325th MOS	3	166
2nd FS	2	165
325th ACS	3	165
325th CON	S 4	165
PIG-PROG	2	162
325th SVS	3	161
325th CS	2	156
325th AMXS	0	153
325th CES	2	153
325th MDOS	2	153
823rd RHS	3	152
First Sgts.	2	149
53rd WEG	4	132
325th CPTS	0	124
325th OG	0	124
325th MSS	0	122
AFRL	2	121
325th OSS	3	120
NCOA	3	112
325th MXS	0	109

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



Intramural Sports Standings

Basketball					
<u>Team</u>	W	L	<u>Team</u>	W	L
ACS	6	0	SFS	3	0
AMXS 2	6	1	SVS	2	1
AMXS 3	5	1	COMM	3	1
95th FS	5	1	AFRL	1	1
MXS	4	1	83rd FWS	0	1
AMXS 1	5	2	CES	0	2
oss	4	3	601st EAOG	0	3

Bowling					
<u>Team</u>	W	L	Team	W	L
MXS - Phase	96	56	AFCESA	76	76
TEST	94	58	CS 1	76	76
SFS	94	58	AMMO	74	78
1st AMU 3	93	59	CONS	73	79
MXS 1	90	62	83rd FWS 2	72	80
601st 2	90	62	53rd WEG	70	82
IAM	90	62	SVS	67	85
601st 1	88	64	OSS	66	86
MSS 2	88	64	ACS 2	66	86
1st AMU 1	85	67	REDHORSE	62	90
MSS 1	84	68	MOS	61	91
AMXS	84	68	ACS 1	58	94
NCOA	82	70	CS 2	58	94
83rd FWS 1	80	72	MDG	56	96
CES	78	74	1 FS	52	100
1st AMU 2	77	75	AAFES	44	108

NASCAR bowling league to start

FRED ALCORN

1st Air Force

The Raptor Lanes NASCAR League will begin with the 2006 NASCAR season, starting with Daytona 500 Feb. 19.

This is an individual league, but groups of three may band together to be one team. Each team will represent a NASCAR/Busch/Truck Series driver.

In order to alleviate the problem of bowlers wanting the same drivers, those who sign-up right away and provide the franchise fee of \$20 can pick their driver and number. People who decide not to participate will have their franchise fee returned to them.

This will be a lunch-time league, so competitors can bowl 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday–Wednesday and Friday.

More about this league will be discussed at the organization meeting at 3 p.m. Sunday at Raptor Lanes.

For more information, call Fred Alcorn at 283-0754.

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School's ESE program benefits every student

2nd Lt. Amanda Ferrell

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Learning is a challenge, and for some it can become a problem. Local educators have a solution, and it's changing the way every student in the classroom is educated.

Exceptional Student Education, provided by Tyndall Elementary, is modified instruction for students who have special needs.

"Educational materials and methods of instruction are formulated for individual students with special needs, however, ESE affects every child in the classroom," said Libbie Pippin, Tyndall Elementary School principal.

ESE methods include repetition, the use of visual aids, association and additional instruction. ESE educators also sort material into smaller, more manageable blocks and provide one-on-one instruction until the child has mastered the information. Those same techniques help all

students in the classroom, whether disabled or not, said Ms. Pippin.

"When children with disabilities remain in the classroom with their non-disabled peers, other students are exposed to, and benefit from, the same additional instruction and educational techniques that have been proven successful for students with special needs," said Ms. Pippin. "Not every child learns the same way, on the same day. But, every child can learn."

"The Bay District is a strong proponent of site-based-management which allows schools to use their discretion when determining the most effective programs and methods of providing quality Exceptional Student Education," said Patrick Martin, Bay District ESE supervisor.

Research shows that integrating students with special needs into the classroom has been extremely successful, he said.

Using research models and classroom experience, educators are constantly

searching for more effective ways to educate those who display mental, emotional or physical challenges to learning, said Mr. Martin. However, educators are not the only people responsible for quality education in schools.

"It's important that parents stay involved in their child's education," he said. "Parents are encouraged to participate in the school system through the PTA and to keep the lines of commu-

nication open with their child's teachers."

Ms. Pippin agrees and said that parents are critical in recognizing potential learning barriers their child may encounter.

She added that "reading with your child presents a great opportunity to teach family values and discuss their day at school."

"Parents can be assured that the Bay



nd I t Amanda Ferrell

Robert Heath, a Tyndall Elementary School fifthgrade teacher, works with students in an inclusion classroom where those with special needs learn alongside their peers.

School District, including Tyndall Elementary, have well-supported ESE programs that contribute not only to the success of students with special needs, but for all children who experience learning difficulties," said Mr. Martin.

For more information concerning ESE at Tyndall Elementary, call 286-6481.

Public Health: Warriors fighting microscopic enemies

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN ROJEK

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

They may not consider themselves heroes, but one group of Airmen protects you and your family every day from bacteria and diseases, and even undercooked chicken.

The 325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron Public Health office sends out their food safety security personnel to inspect facilities around the base for cleanliness, hazards and health risks.

Tyndall has zero food-borne illnesses, said Staff Sgt. Tia Conners, 325th ADS food safety security NCO in charge. Her office ensures this by inspecting every

facility on base that serves or stores food. This includes facilities ranging from Berg-Liles Dining Facility to the Child Development Center to the Commissary. They even check vending machines around base.

But that's not all. They also inspect the base pool, barber and beauty shops, as well as the Fitness Center and lodging. During these inspections, they check for cleanliness and sanitation, making sure Airmen aren't getting sick from things other than food.

Their inspections don't just include on-base facilities. Tyndall's Public Health office also goes downtown to inspect contract-quarters hotels. During this annual inspection, Public Health personnel inspect the

hotel linens, swimming pools and food service facilities.

"We are doing this to protect our people," said Sergeant Conners.

To protect Tyndall, Sergeant Conners ensures that every facility she inspects is to standard even when Public Health is not around. She accomplishes this by making sure all inspections are unscheduled and a surprise to the facility.

"They come to our facility about once a month," said Staff Sgt. Bryan Garnett, 325th Services Squadron storeroom manager. "There is no notice on the inspection. They just show up randomly. This keeps us on top of our game."

While most facilities are inspected monthly, some smaller facilities that have a lower risk of food problems are inspected bi-monthly or quarterly, said Sergeant Conners. Based on risk analysis, some facilities are inspected annually.

During an inspection of a food-serving facility, the inspector first asks for the manager. After explaining an inspection is about to take place, the inspector goes around the facility making sure everything is up to par with the Food Code, also known as the Public Health Bible, according to Sergeant Conners.

"The Food Code includes both Food and Drug Administration requirements and Air Force inserts," she said. "The Air Force's guidelines are very strict."

Those who pass the inspection get kudos from the sergeant. Those who get an unsatisfactory have 24 hours to fix the problem.

"An unsatisfactory score can come from just one critical item infraction," said Sergeant Conners. "A critical item is anything with the potential to cause foodborne illness."

"These inspections are nothing drastic," said Sergeant Garnett. "Public Health goes through the same checklist we use for our weekly self-inspections."

Public Health benefits facilities like Berg-Liles in two ways, he said.

"If we have a problem here, they're a good avenue to get those problems solved," said Sergeant Garnett. "Also, they ensure that we're following procedures and maintaining proper food standards."

Not only do these inspections help the facilities and Tyndall Airmen, but they also help the Air Force.

"If someone gets sick, it impacts the mission," said Sergeant Conners. "We're here to protect the mission."



isa Norman

Staff Sgt. Tia Conners inspects the soda fountain at the Berg-Liles Dining Facility here while Airman Basic Nortrez Copeland, 325th Services Squadron, watches.

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RAO seeks new director

2ND LT. WILL POWELL

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Tyndall Retiree Activities Office is in dire need of volunteers and a director, or the office may be forced to close, the acting RAO director said.

"Out of more than 8,000 retirees in the local area, only about five people are volunteering to keep the office running," said retired Maj. Gen. Larry Fleming, who is temporarily acting as the director for the fourth time since the office opened in 1978.

Headquarters U.S. Air Force established the Retiree Activities Program to serve its retirees and their eligible family members, and to support, advance and unify the retired and active military communities.

"In a nutshell, we're here to answer questions," said retired Chief Master Sgt. Doyle Wade, who was the RAO director until Jan. 1. "We are a source of information for the retiree community about pay and entitlements, vehicle registration, identification cards and more."

The director is responsible for keeping track of files and volunteer hours, helping

to produce periodic newsletters and managing the office. No previous experience is necessary, Chief Wade said.

"Anybody can be the director," he said. Chief Wade said he had to step down from the director position to spend more time caring for his wife, but he still finds time to volunteer a few hours a week in the office.

"Volunteering allows me to stay in touch with the active-duty personnel and with the military in general," said Chief Wade. "(Working at the office) helps me feel connected to Tyndall, where I've lived and worked for so long."

Both men agree that volunteering not only helps others in need, but it also benefits the volunteers.

"When my head hits the pillow at night, I feel like I did some good by helping others," General Fleming said. "You just get a great feeling of satisfaction for serving your fellow man."

The office is open from 9 a.m. to noon Monday – Friday. For more information, or to volunteer, call 283-2737, or e-mail at tyndall.rao@tyndall.af.mil.

VITA offers free tax service

TECH. SGT. TINA CREWS
Base Legal office

The Tyndall Air Force Base Volunteer Income Tax Assistance center will render tax services from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday, beginning Monday and continuing through April 15.

The staff of IRStrained VITA representatives will provide this free service in the Marsh Room of the Tyndall Community Activities

Appointments can be made by contacting a unit tax advisor. Clients need to obtain a 2005 taxpayer information sheet from the unit tax advisor and complete it before the visit. In addition to the items mentioned on the information sheet, clients will need to bring a military ID, power of attorney (if necessary), receipts for deductible ex-

penses and a Schedule C for base home-daycare providers.

Appointments are also available by calling 283-9164, 9165, or 9166. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Tina Crews or Robbie Troupe at 283-4681.

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unshine



www.325thservices.com

www.325thservices.com

find. For details, contact the

Community Center 283-2495.













Coming soon: "Wing Swing Feb. 25 Learn to dance Sign-up now!



Attention Team Tyndall: Place a free classified ad in the Gulf Defender

Military classified ads are placed in the Gulf Defender on a space available basis. Ads must be for a one-time sale of personal goods and should include a complete description, 30 words or less, of item being sold. Forms must be turned in by 2 p.m. Thursday for publication in the following Friday's Gulf Defender. Completed forms can be dropped off or mailed to the 325th Fighter Wing Public

Rank/Name
Unit/Office Symbol
Duty Phone
Home Phone
Item description (One ad per form)

(30 words or less)

We value your opinion!

details, contact the Pizza Pub

Take a couple of minutes to give us your thoughts on how we can make the Gulf

Did the front page grab your Yes □ No □ attention?

Do you feel there is a good mix of Yes □ No □ local, command and Air Force-level news?

Yes □ No □ Do the photos encourage you to read accompanied articles?

Is the Gulf Defender easy to read and follow?

What did you find most interesting in this week's paper?

If you could change one thing in the paper, what would it be?

Comments:

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From PAY Page 1

disasters or troop surges resulting from force realignments;

- -An increase of 2,000 pounds in the household goods weight allowance for senior noncommissioned officers E-7 and above;
- Enhanced death benefits, resulting in a total of \$238,000 for all deaths not previously qualified for enhanced benefits, and the permanent institution of a policy that continues the basic allowance for hous-

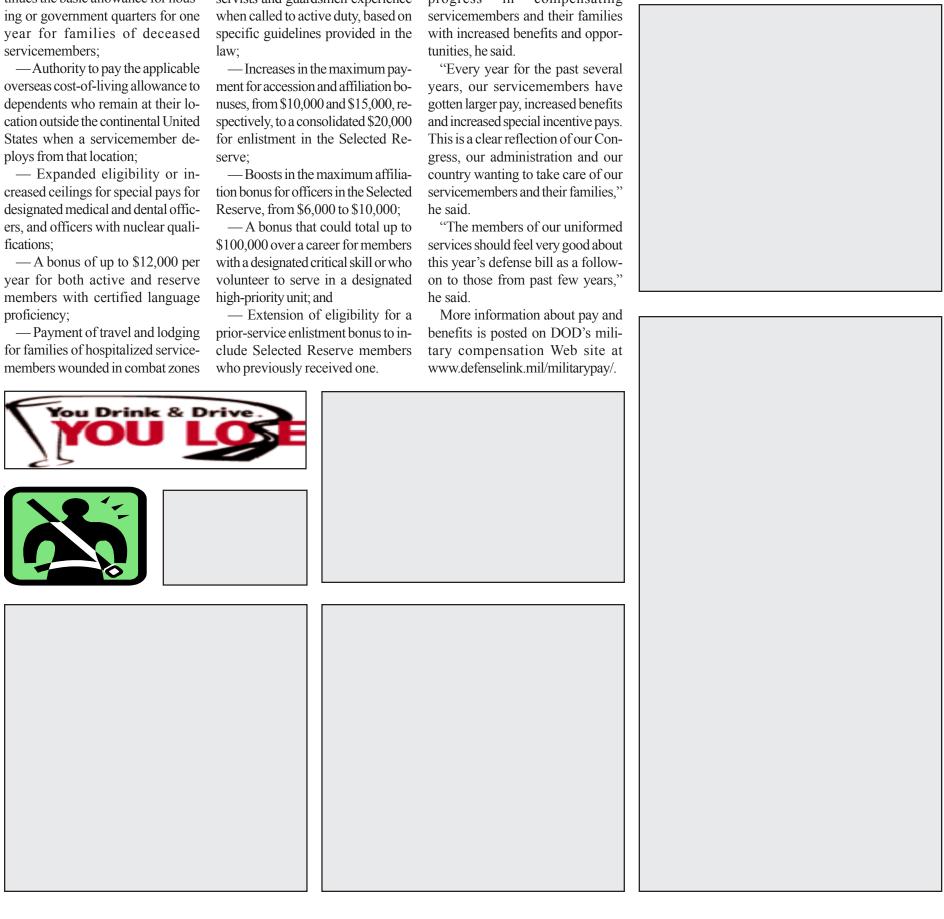
or other designated areas.

The law also provides a variety of benefits specifically targeting members of the reserve components. These include:

- Full housing allowance payments for reserve members called to active duty for more than 30 days, vs. the previous 140-day requirement;
- Income replacement benefits to help offset the pay loss some reservists and guardsmen experience

Mr. Witschonke emphasized that the new law does not guarantee that all servicemembers will qualify for these pays and benefits, or that those who do will receive the highest amounts authorized. Rather, the law gives defense and service leaders the flexibility they need to tailor the force to meet operational, recruiting and retention goals.

The 2006 authorization act, like those in recent years, reflects steady in compensating progress



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Tyndall experts 'network' to get job done

2ND LT. WILL POWELL

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A small, elite group of technical experts here are responsible for operating, trouble-shooting and repairing everything that uses the Tyndall network and everything that's stored on it. They are network administrators, and without them and the network they run, accomplishing any mission is hard to imagine.

"If people can't access their files or their e-mail, there could be a severe work stoppage here," said Master Sgt. Marlon Luna, 325th Communications Squadron network administration section chief.

To keep Tyndall's network running, the team of 20 NAs often work well past their normal duty day to avoid disrupting the daily mission accomplished by approximately 6,000 network users, said Staff Sgt. Aurelio Lopez, network configurations administrator.

He and two other NAs recently worked 31 hours straight to troubleshoot and fix a major network problem affecting all three Tyndall domain controllers, which left Tyndall users with extremely limited network access.

sers with extremely limited network access. "Nobody knows how (the problem) hap-

pened, not even Microsoft technicians," Sergeant Lopez said.

Unfortunately, that trouble occurred concurrently with a separate problem that caused file servers to crash. The NAs discovered and fixed a software malfunction to correct that glitch, and Tyndall users should have noticed an immediate difference when they logged in for the first time Tuesday morning.

Even though most users were affected by the recent network problems, the engineers fix most network errors before the user even knows about them, Sergeant Luna said.

But it isn't easy.

"It is time-consuming work, and technical orders don't really help because the technology changes so often," said Staff Sergeant Jarmain Davis, network messaging administrator. "I wish we could get some of the same problems over and over to aid trouble-shooting."

The squadron also permanently relocated many staff members recently to the AETC Network Operations and Security Center at Randolph AFB, Texas. The move was in response to an Air Force-wide initiative to consolidate network operations as much as

possible to more efficiently and effectively manage the computer systems and customer support. The move would have ideally lightened the workload and required manpower of the base-level network control center.

"However, it feels like we're still doing the same amount of work but with less people," Sergeant Luna said. "It's a growing process between us and the NOSC."

Despite the daily challenges, all three Airmen agreed that the job is very satisfying.

"When 50 people look at a problem and they can't fix it, but you come in and fix it fast, you get a sense of satisfaction there," Sergeant Lopez said.

FORCE SUSTAINMENT

